



NWMMOC NEWSLETTER

March 2025

Games afternoon at Castle Eaton Village Hall, Sunday, 16th February.

Words: Pam Holmes. Photos: Sarah Bracher

A relaxing afternoon was spent playing board games, dominoes and Jenga. Members brought their own picnics; drinks and biscuits greeted members on arrival. Later we had more cups of tea and delicious cakes made by Sarah and Kath.

During an interlude in the games, Alex informed us all about two future events. The visit on 17th March, to the Athelstan Museum in Malmesbury and the proposed weekend visit to Derbyshire over 8-9th June.

Several people arrived in their “moggies”.



It was good to see Richard Reades' convertible, “Little Mo” which has recently had a new hood amongst many other repairs and improvements.

Richard, with his bottle of wine won in the raffle, Harry and Andrew took a game of dominos quite seriously!



Steve concentrates whilst playing Jenga!



Minor Matters - Branch News

Pam Holmes

Those of you who are MMOC members will be familiar with "Minor Matters" the club magazine which is produced six times each year. You will recall that within the magazine there is a section called "Branch News" where each Branch, including ourselves the North Wiltshire Branch, are invited to write a short report, maximum 200 words, about Branch events that have recently taken place and/or events due to take place.

Several of our Branch members have written these short reports over the last few years and now I am asking for other Branch members to volunteer to write one of the reports over the next year.

If you would be willing to make this contribution on behalf of our Branch then please contact me as soon as possible. pamlynnholmes@icloud.com

Congratulations!

Words & Photo: Bill Reed



Photo taken on my return from MOT test this morning. Passed with no advisories following replacement of broken handbrake cable. Replaced both cables as a precaution. Telephone boxes are not what they used to be!

Drive Out on 28th Feb.

Words: Kath Ridley. Photos: Harry Ridley

On Friday the 28th February, Steve and Shirley, Alex, Harry and myself, met up at Steve Chater's house, we then all got into our cars to go to "The Prison", for a lunch break and then had a lovely drive to "The Classic Motor Hub" near Bibury.

We spent our time there looking at many cars, Daimlers, Bentleys etc, some were for sale and some were there for storage.

One of the last cars we saw was a Delage Voiturette (1914) which was having some work done on it in the workshop, the engineer who was working on it told us that he will be driving it round the " Goodwood Circuit," very soon.

I think I could say this for all of us who were there, it was a really nice day out and we thank both Steve Chater and Alex for organising this.



At the Classic Motor Hub.



For those who have not tried it, there are great refreshments to be had a The Old Prison!



Minors at Modrail

Words & Photos: Bill Reed.

Here are a couple of pictures of Minors at the MODRAIL model railway exhibition at STEAM Museum on Saturday 1 March.



Exclusive Opportunities for Our Branch:

Monday 17 March, 2:00pm, Athelstan Museum Malmesbury

Words and photo: Bill Reed.



2:00: Exclusive tour of Athelstan Museum, where you can see exhibits including:

JMW Turner's watercolour of Malmesbury Abbey.

The history of the Malmesbury Branch railway.

Wedding dress display.

King Athelstan's sword: the replica made by blacksmith Hector Cole OBE, with video.

Roman coin hoard found at Garsdon.

"Malmesbury Voices" spoken memory collection.

"Bird's Eye View" of Malmesbury during the Civil War.

3:00: Meet at the Rausing Building (old Moravian Church) which is just round the corner from the Town Hall, for the following:

Display of N-gauge model of Malmesbury railway station, built by Rev. Chris Burch (1950-2016) and the story of the construction of this model, written by Chris Burch.

Slideshow of images of the model, and of other Malmesbury Branch models

Listening corner with spoken memories of the Malmesbury Branch

Illustrated talk by Bill on the locomotive "Malmesbury Abbey" built in Swindon, and its designer George Jackson Churchward.

Tea and biscuits. The Museum is volunteer-run and entry is free. Donations are welcome. Website: <https://www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk/>

Please inform Gill if you would like to attend.

**Weekend of 8-9 June, Wirksworth, Derbyshire: arranged
by Alex and Bill**

Words & photos: Bill Reed.

Visit to the Morris Minor Day at the Great British Car Journey, which is nearby
at Ambergate. Website: <https://greatbritishcarjourney.com/>



Meet up with our honorary members Julian and Susie Marshall, who live in Wirksworth.

There are many interesting sites to visit locally, including:

- Wirksworth Heritage Centre
- Ecclesbourne Valley Heritage Railway
- The Star Disc stone circle
- Crich Tramway Village (photo below with Branch Morris Minors)
- Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site

So you could plan to spend a few days here.
Please make your own accommodation arrangements.
Website: <https://www.storyofwirksworth.co.uk/>

Please inform Gill if you would like to take part in this trip.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF NORTH WILTS MMOC BRANCH

As you know Sarah has been our Chairperson for a while and by the next AGM will have served for two years.

Sarah has told the Committee that she will not be standing for Chair again in October. She has enjoyed leading the branch but due to work and home commitments needs to step down at the October 2025, AGM.

Obviously we will then have a vacancy for a Chairperson so we are asking if there is anyone in the branch that would like to take on the role.

If you feel that this would be of interest to you please let the Committee know.

The Committee would welcome you into the fold and would support any new member.

Thank you

Regards

The Committee

North Wilts Branch Events, MMOC Area 4 Events and other events.

Please refer to the North Wilts Branch website.

<http://www.northwiltsmmoc.co.uk/styled-18/index.html>

Preview for the March Event

For members interested in our Branch event about the Malmesbury railway, on 17 March, Bill Reed's podcast on the Malmesbury Branch Railway is now available on the website of Malmesbury Community Radio, by following one of these links.

The first link should take you directly to it:

<https://www.mixcloud.com/FlyingMonkCommunityProjects/bill-reed-chats-to-us-about-the-malmesbury-branch-railway/>

The second link takes you to it along with the other New Year podcasts, you need to scroll down to "Malmesbury Branch Railway".

<https://flyingmonkcommunityprojects.weebly.com/index.html>

Thanks & final notes

From: Pam Holmes

I would like to thank those people who have taken the time to contribute to this Branch Newsletter by sending me short reports and/or photos:

Ashley Alexander
Sarah Bracher
Bill Reed
Harry & Kath Ridley

I look forward to meeting up at our Branch events in March.

Please send reports and photos for the April 2025 Branch Newsletter as soon as possible but before 28th March.

Apologies for the late circulation of this Branch Newsletter but a significant factor was the lack of internet services in this area for 3 days earlier in the week!